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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/584,380	06/27/2006	Eiichi Iida	4386.75320	1258
24978 7590 05/29/2008 GREER, BURNS & CRAIN 300 S WACKER DR 25TH FLOOR CHICAGO, IL 60606				
EXAMINER				
FISCHER, JUSTIN R				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1791				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/29/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/584,380

Applicant(s)

IIDA, EIICHI

Examiner

Justin R. Fischer

Art Unit

1791

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 062706
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As currently drafted, the claim defines a first and second thickness for the fastening bead core. It appears that the second thickness actually refers to the non-fastening bead core. Applicant is asked to amend the claim if such an embodiment is desired.

With respect to claim 5, the language "the non-fastening bead cores" is present in line 3. There is no antecedent basis for this language as the independent claim simply defines a non-fastening bead core. It is suggested that the claim be amended to include the following language: wherein non-fastening bead cores are respectively placed on both sides of the fastening bead core in an axial direction of the tire.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwami (JP 5-178033). As best depicted in Figure 3, Iwami teaches a pneumatic tire construction comprising a fastening bead core 3 and a non-fastening bead core 5, wherein the diameter of said non-fastening bead core is less than the diameter of said fastening bead core.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Watanabe (JP 2000-301917). As best depicted in Figures 1 and 3, Watanabe is directed to a pneumatic tire construction comprising a fastening bead core 1 and a non-fastening bead core 3, wherein the diameter of said non-fastening bead core is less than the diameter of said fastening bead core.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe. As noted above, Watanabe substantially teaches the claimed tire construction, including a fastening bead core and a non-fastening bead core. Furthermore, the figures generally depict the radially inner end of the non-fastening bead core as being slightly inward of the radially inner end of the fastening bead core. While the reference fails to expressly disclose the amount of separation, a fair reading of the reference suggests a relatively small thickness and such a suggestion is

consistent with the claimed quantitative relationship. In particular, a separation between 0.5 and 1.5 times the carcass thickness is on the order of 1 or 2 mm (depending on tire size) and such values are within the scope of the general teachings of Watanabe. It is further noted that applicant has not provided a conclusive showing of unexpected results to establish a criticality for the claimed separation. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious to form the separation of Watanabe in accordance to the claimed invention.

8. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwami and further in view of Yakida (JP 8-175126). As disclosed above, Iwami substantially teaches the claimed tire construction, including a fastening and non-fastening bead core. While the reference fails to expressly describe the makeup of the bead cores, it is extremely well known that such cores are composed of rubber covered steel cords and more particularly, the rubber used in such cores (insulation rubber) commonly has a hardness in accordance to the claimed invention, as shown for example by Yakida (Abstract). Lastly, it is evident that adjacent steel cords are separated by a certain thickness of insulation rubber and the claim defines an extremely broad range (0.1-1.5 mm) that is consistent with dimensions in the bead core. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious to form the insulation rubber of Yakida with a thickness between 0.1 and 1.5 mm.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 3, 5, and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
10. Claims 3 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Justin R. Fischer** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-1215**. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Justin Fischer
/Justin R Fischer/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791